



# Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Management Plan

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Public Meeting #3  
June 21<sup>st</sup> , 2022



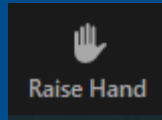
# In Person Meeting Participation

1. Reminder that the meeting is being recorded.
2. If you would like to speak, please use the microphone to provide comment or ask a question.



# Virtual Meeting Participation

1. Attendees are muted by default.
2. If you'd like to speak, please click or tap the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of your screen and wait to be called on. Those dialing in by telephone can raise their hand by dialing \*9.



Connecting by  
Phone?



\*9 to raise hand

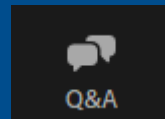
3. After you've been called on, click or tap the "Unmute" button to speak. Those dialing in by phone can unmute by dialing \*6.



\*6 to unmute



4. If you'd like to write in a question or comment instead, please click or tap the Q&A button to submit your question.







# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Project Update
  - Construction
  - Management Plan
- Draft Strategies & Recommendations
  - Vision & Goals
  - Strategy Development
  - Management
  - Maintenance & Operations
  - Economic Development & Community Connections
- Next Steps
- Public Input

# Welcome & Introductions





# Management Plan Introductions

## ■ Project Team

- **Amy Bell** | VTrans Project Manager
- **Jacqui DeMent** | VTrans
- **David Saladino** | VHB
- **Karen Sentoff** | VHB
- **Elisabeth Sundberg** | VHB
- **Jeff Dube** | VHB

## ■ VTrans

- **Jackie Cassino** | Rail Trails Program Manager
- **Chris Hunt** | Project Supervisor

## ■ Stakeholder Group

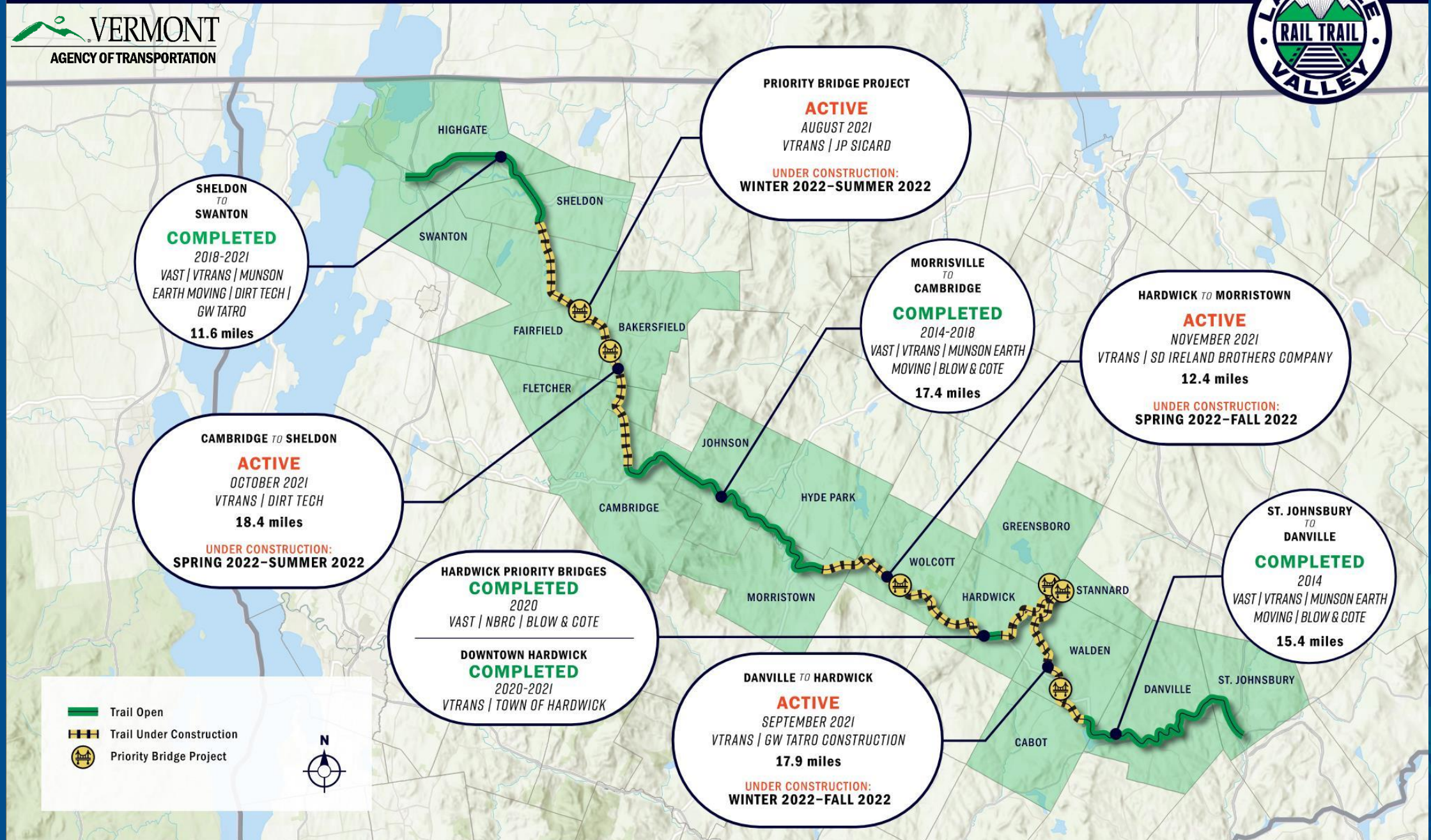
- **Michele Boomhower** | VTrans Director of Policy & Planning
- **Jon Kaplan** | VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager
- **Joel Perrigo** | VTrans LVRT Construction Project Manager
- **Mark Fitzgerald** | VTrans Rail Property Management Section Chief
- **Ken Brown** | Vermont Association of Snow Travelers
- **Dan Delabruere** | VTrans Rail & Aviation Bureau Director
- **Nate Formalarie** | Department of Tourism and Marketing
- **Rob Moore** | Lamoille County Planning Commission
- **David Snedeker** | Northeastern Vermont Development Association
- **Bethany Remmers** | Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- **Nancy Banks / Carol Hodges** | Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

# Construction Update





# Trail Construction Update







# Trail Construction Update

Projects-Segments	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>St. Johnsbury TO Danville</b> 15.4 MILES	<b>Completed by VAST/VTrans</b> Munson Earth Moving   Blow & Cote								
<b>Danville TO Hardwick</b> 17.9 MILES						Awarded: GW Tatro Construction, September '21 Under Construction		<b>ACTIVE   VTrans</b>	
<b>Hardwick TO Morristown</b> 12.4 MILES							Awarded: SD Ireland, November '21 Under Construction		<b>ACTIVE   VTrans</b>
<b>Morristown TO Cambridge</b> 17.4 MILES			<b>Completed by VAST/VTrans</b> Munson Earth Moving   Blow & Cote						
<b>Cambridge TO Sheldon</b> 18.4 MILES						Awarded: Dirt Tech Company, October '21 Under Construction		<b>ACTIVE   VTrans</b>	
<b>Sheldon TO Sheldon Junction</b> 1.5 MILES					<b>Completed by VAST/VTrans</b> Munson Earth Moving				
<b>Sheldon Junction TO Highgate</b> 6.2 MILES							<b>Completed by VAST/VTrans</b> Dirt Tech		
<b>Highgate TO Swanton</b> 3.9 MILES							<b>Completed by VAST/VTrans</b> GW Tatro		
<b>Priority Bridges Project</b>						Awarded: JP Sicard, August '21 Under Construction		<b>ACTIVE   VTrans</b>	



# Trail Construction Update



**LVRT(10)** – Bridge project; Contract awarded to J. P. Sicard, Inc. Construction contract amount: \$3,472,258.50. Completion date August 31, 2022.

**LVRT(11)** – Sheldon Jct. to Cambridge; Contract awarded to Dirt Tech Company, LLC. Construction contract amount: \$2,476,651.15. Completion date November 12, 2022.

**LVRT(12)** – Morrisville to Hardwick; Contract awarded to S. D. Ireland Construction. Construction contract amount: \$6,986,878.50. Completion date November 10, 2022.

**LVRT(13)** – Hardwick to West Danville (Joes Pond); Contract Awarded to G. W. Tatro Construction, Inc. Construction contract amount: \$2,254,046.00. Completion date November 12, 2022



## What it **IS**

- Review of best practices from other trail systems throughout the country.
- Recommendations for a cohesive set of off-facility signs including how to find the trail from the State Highway and Local Roads and on-trail signs including mile markers, town lines, and geographic destinations.
- Solicitation of input from RPC's, VAST, VTrans and other important stakeholders.
- Development of plans, specifications and an estimate for this project be bid.







## What it is **NOT**

- Temporary traffic control during construction
- Signs pointing users to individual businesses, services or attractions.
- Interpretive signage detailing features of historic or environmental significance along the trail.





## Timeline

- Complete review, outreach and development of plans, specifications and estimate Fall of 2022.
- Bid for construction Winter 2022/Spring 2023.
- Construction begins Spring 2023.

# Project Update









# What is a Management Plan?

- **Vision & Goals** for a cohesive trail system
- **Strategies to guide:**
  - Management
  - Maintenance & Operations
  - Economic Development & Community Connections

# ***DRAFT*** **Strategies & Recommendations**







# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

## 1. Stakeholder Input & Background Investigations





# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

1. Stakeholder Input & Background Investigations
2. Screen Ideas through Vision & Goals



**VISION & GOALS**



# LVRT Vision Statement

The Vision for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is a **year-round, multiuse recreation and alternative transportation corridor** that is **well-maintained** and **supports economic vitality**, fosters **community connections**, and **promotes healthy lifestyles** across scenic, northern Vermont.







# LVRT Management Plan Goals



## Support the economic vitality of northern Vermont communities

Promote LVRT locally and regionally to draw visitors to the trail and trailside communities

Improve connections to villages and town centers to encourage exploration of trailside communities

Complement existing economic development plans in trailside communities



## Cultivate community, culture, and history along the trail and in trailside communities

Foster trail stewardship opportunities to promote sense of community pride

Encourage inclusive and respectful trail use

Promote rural heritage, history, and educational programming



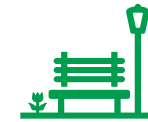
## Promote healthy and connected communities

Encourage healthy and active lifestyles

Provide meaningful opportunities for connection with the scenic, natural, and agricultural landscape

Promote development and improve connections to recreational opportunities proximate to the LVRT

Improve connections to alternative transportation networks and trail systems



## Preserve the corridor and maintain trail condition

Provide for routine asset condition assessment, maintenance, and preservation activities

Support well-maintained facilities for health and safety

Provide convenient trail access points along the LVRT with clear directional signage and well-maintained parking areas



## Establish a well-managed trail system

Support and coordinate proactive trail management, maintenance, and operations activities

Identify stable sources of funding for management, maintenance, operations, enhancements, and programming



# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

1. Stakeholder Input & Background Investigations
2. Screen Ideas through Vision & Goals



**VISION & GOALS**

# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

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& Background  
Investigations



2. Screen Ideas  
through Vision  
& Goals

**VISION & GOALS**



3. Align Strategies &  
Recommendations  
by "Bucket"



**Management**



**Maintenance &  
Operations**



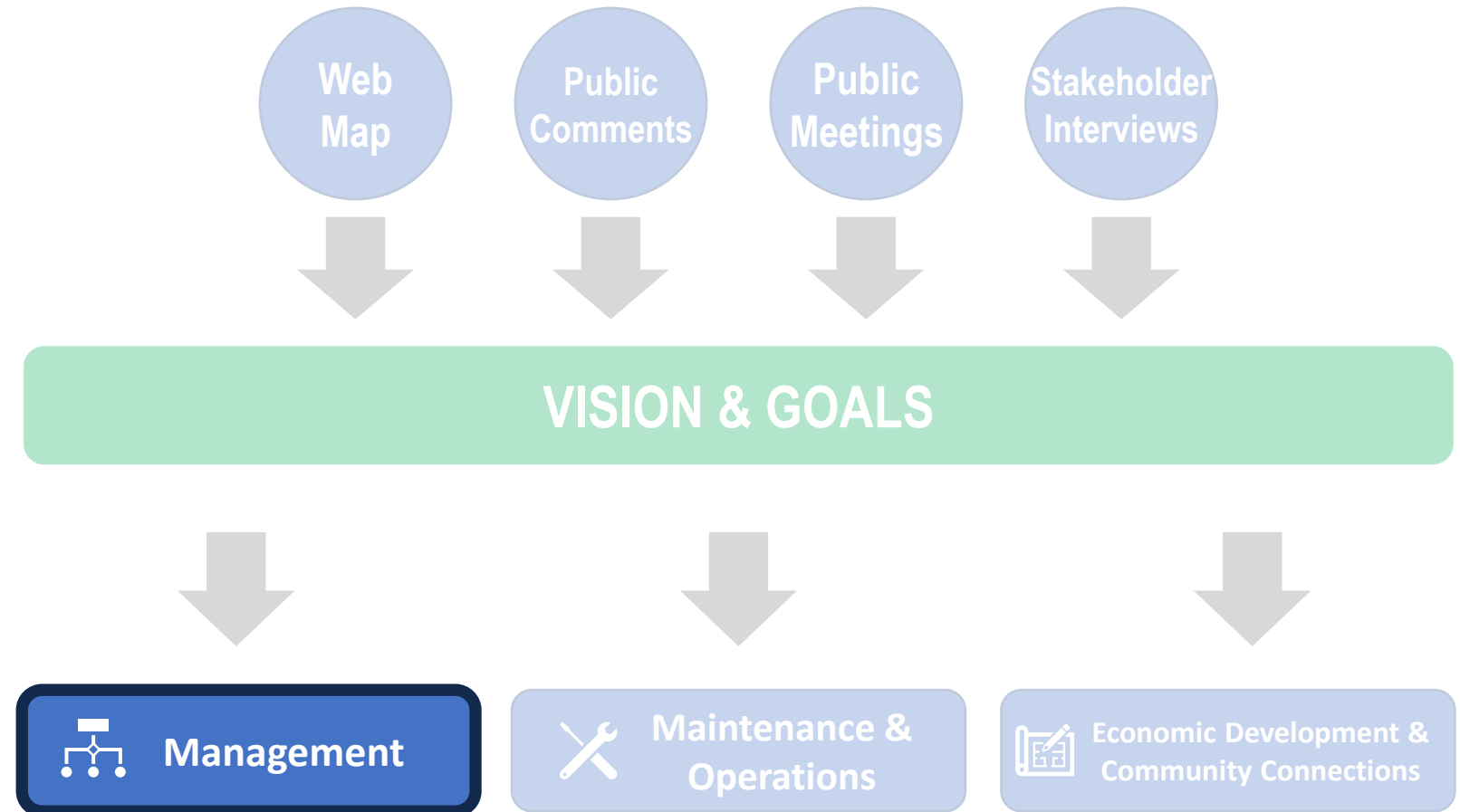
**Economic Development &  
Community Connections**

# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

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# Draft Strategies & Recommendations:

## Management

- **Human Resources/Staffing**     
  - Implement a **staffing structure** to efficiently support continuity and strategic management, maintenance, and operations
- **Volunteer Staff Management**    
  - Establish proposed **Regional LVRT Stakeholder Groups** to engage trail champions and coordinate local volunteers
  - Develop **training programs** to engage volunteers and partnering organizations (e.g. trail ambassadors, condition assessments, adopt a segment or trailhead programs)

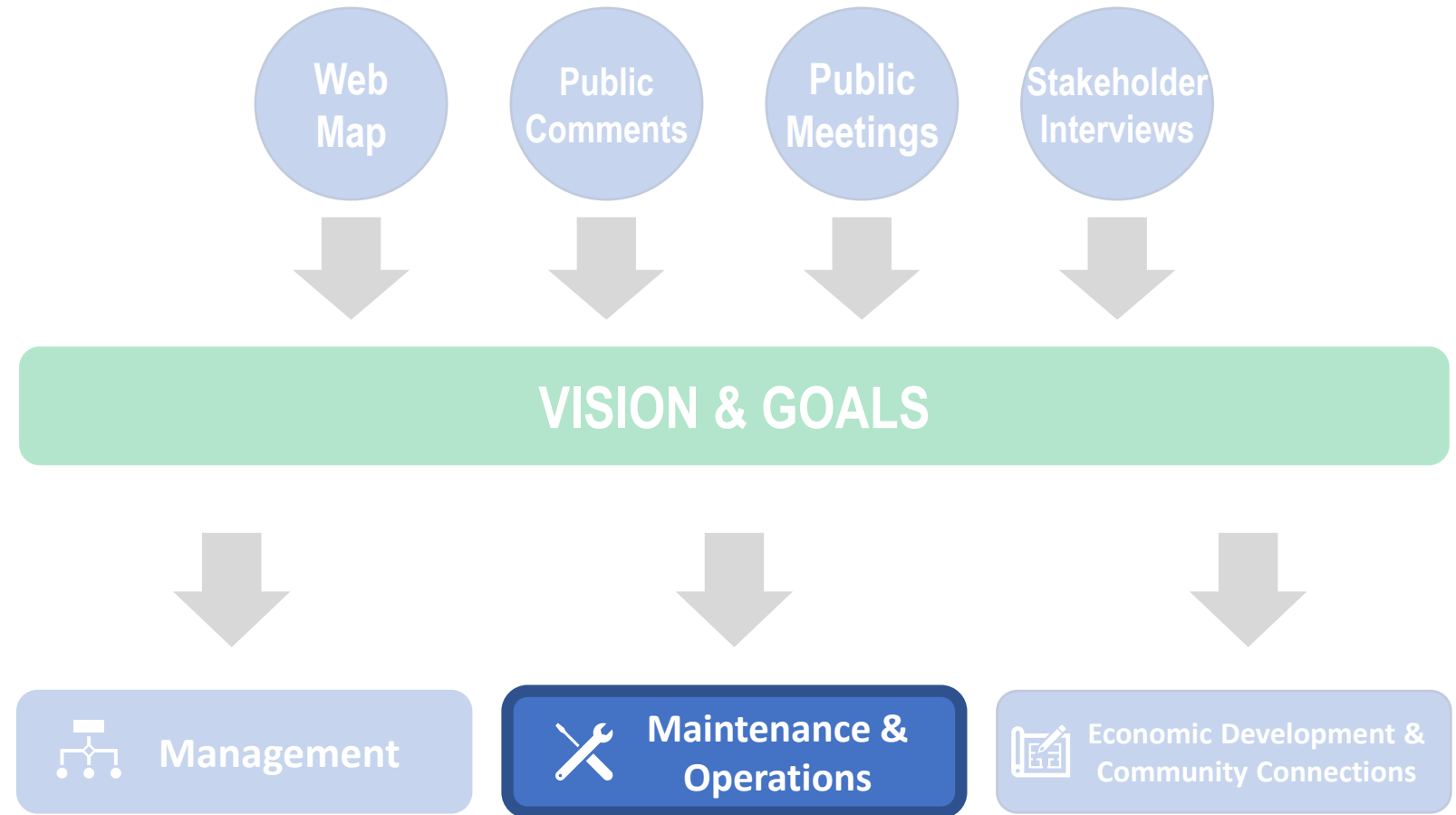


# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

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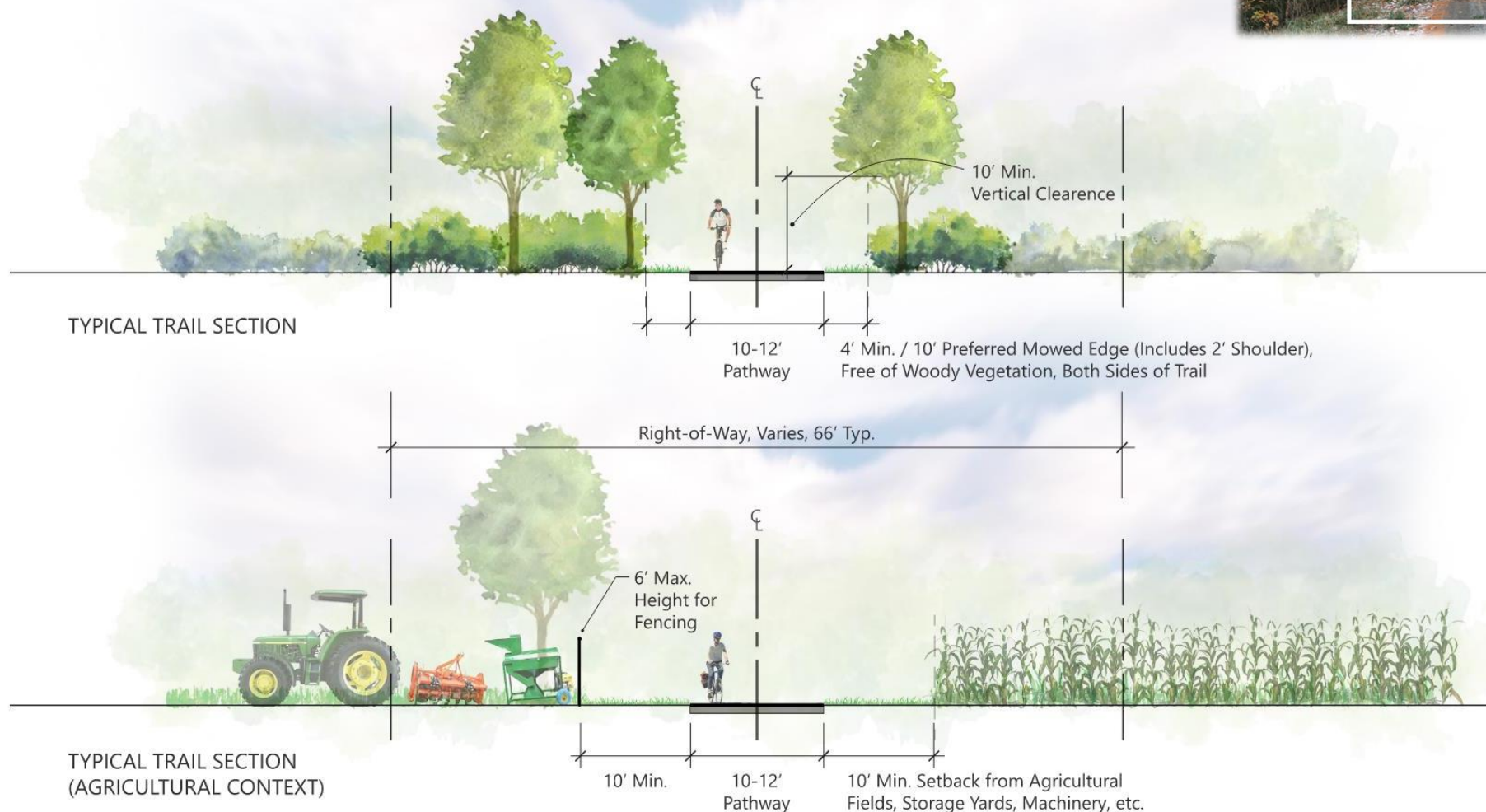




# Draft Strategies & Recommendations: Maintenance & Operations










- **Asset Management & Inspection**   
  - Conduct **routine inspections** of all trail assets (trail surface, culverts, bridge structure, bridge surface, trailheads, signs)
  - Identify and prioritize **system preservation** projects
- **Seasonal Maintenance**  
  - Develop **annual maintenance plan**
  - Identify contractors and **procure services** for annual seasonal maintenance activities (mowing, trail surface rehab, etc.)
- **Best Management Practices**  
  - Adapt and adopt **best management practices** for trail specific maintenance activities including surface inspection, vegetation management, wildlife management, and flood mitigation

# Maintenance & Operations





# Draft Strategies & Recommendations: Maintenance & Operations

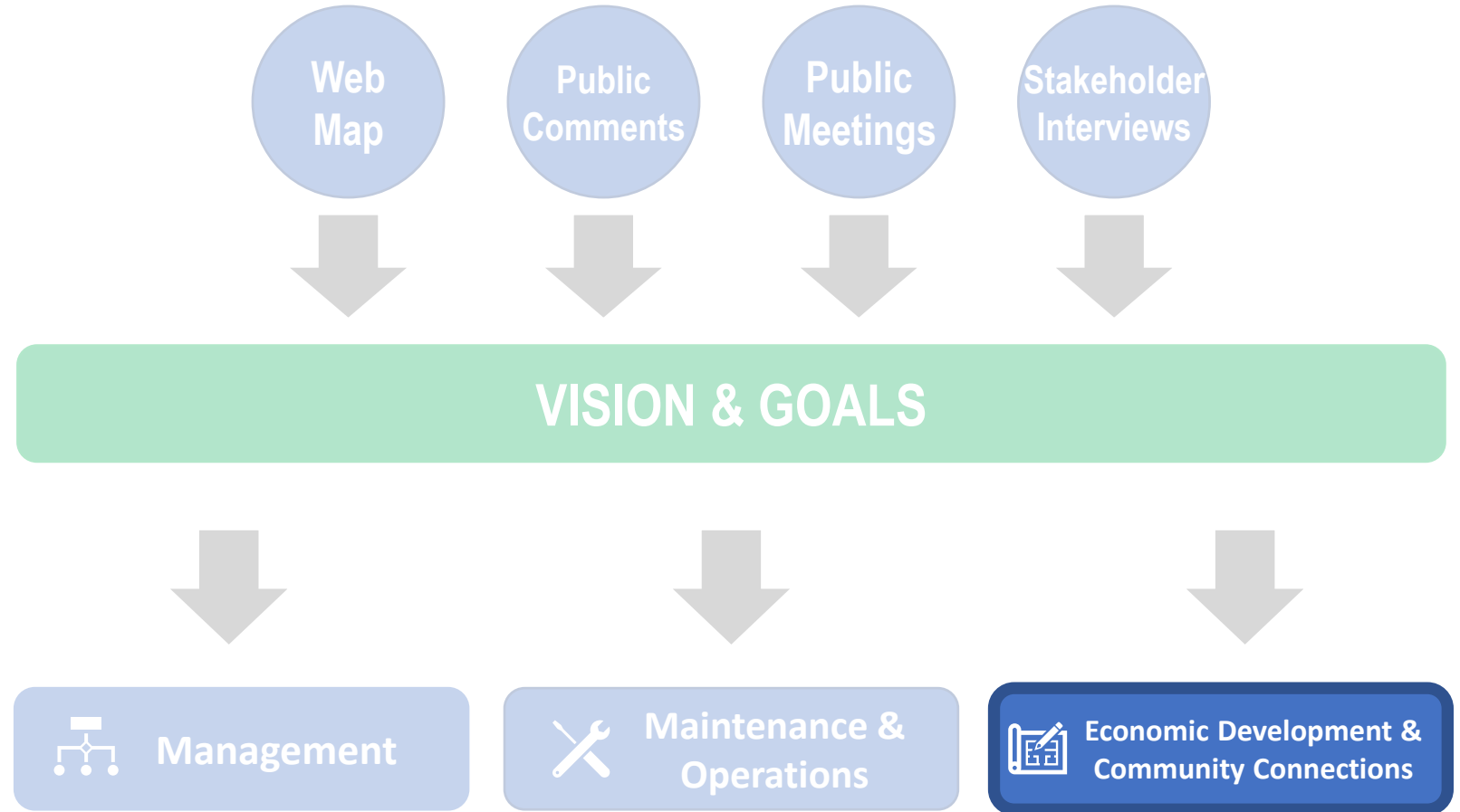
- **Operations Manual**    
  - Establish clear policies and procedures for:
    1. Allowable uses and use permits
    2. Resolving user conflicts
    3. Mitigating encroachment & encampment issues
    4. Agreements supporting trail connections and amenities for the public good
    5. Trail access, crossing and right-of-way use agreements
    6. Trail etiquette (incorporate in signage and promotional/educational materials)
- **User Count & Survey Program**     
  - Develop **count and survey program** to gather visitor use and user feedback data

# Developing Draft Strategies & Recommendations

1. Stakeholder Input  
& Background  
Investigations

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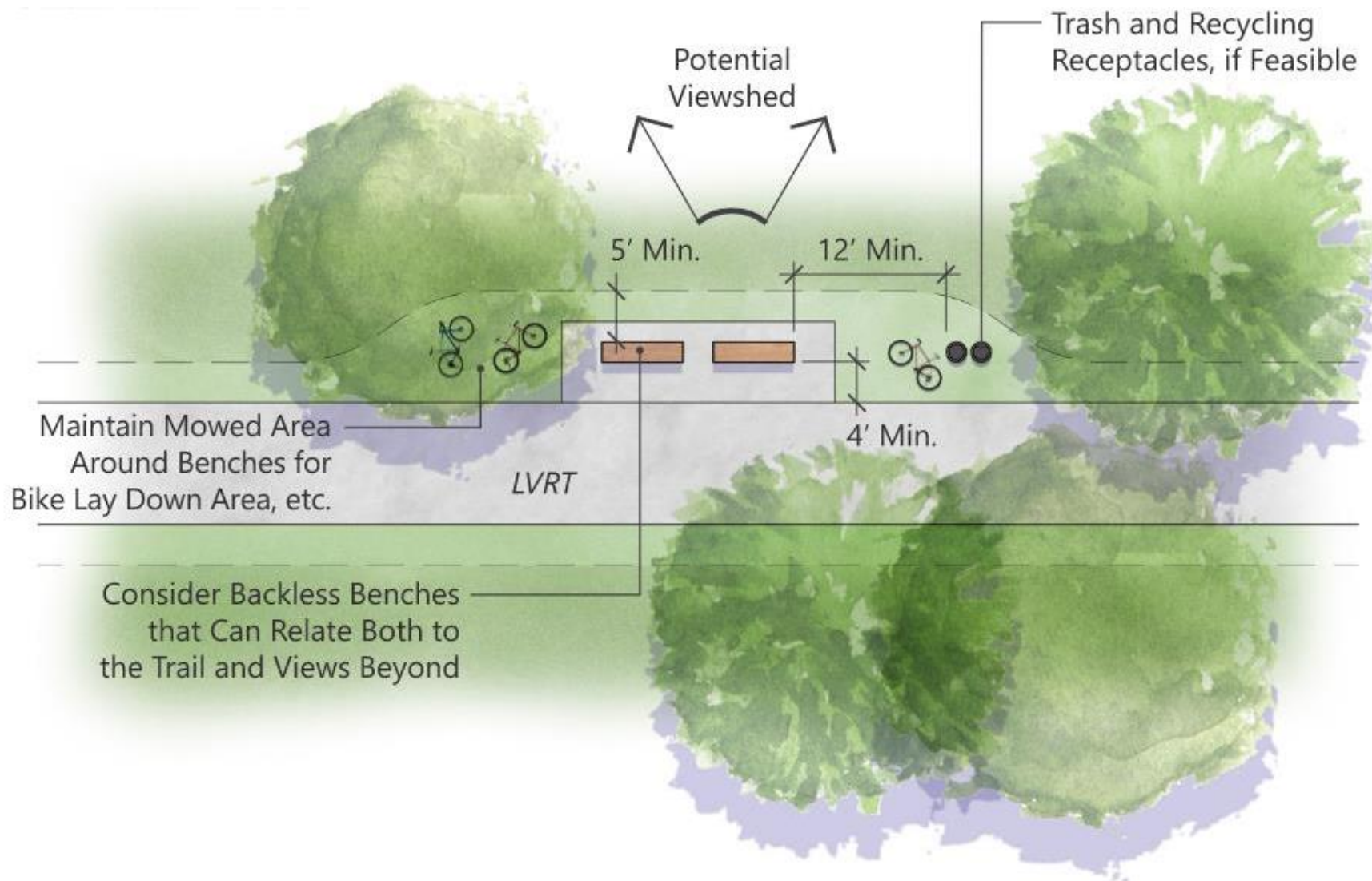


# Draft Strategies & Recommendations:

## Economic Development & Community Connections

- **Capital Improvement Projects**     
- **Pause Places**
  - Identify and support development of **pause places**
- **Trail Connections**
  - Support the development of **connecting or spur trail** systems
  - Support promotion of **regional or destination loops** connecting to the LVRT
- **Trailheads**
  - Establish **network of trailheads** to provide trail access and trailside amenities at regular frequencies
  - Engage with local communities in the **development and maintenance of trailheads** and trailside amenities

# Pause Places







# Trailheads

- Trailheads serve as gateways to the LVRT and to trailside communities





# Trailhead Amenity Levels



Amenities that should be included for a trailhead of this listed level



Amenities that may be included for a trailhead of this listed level



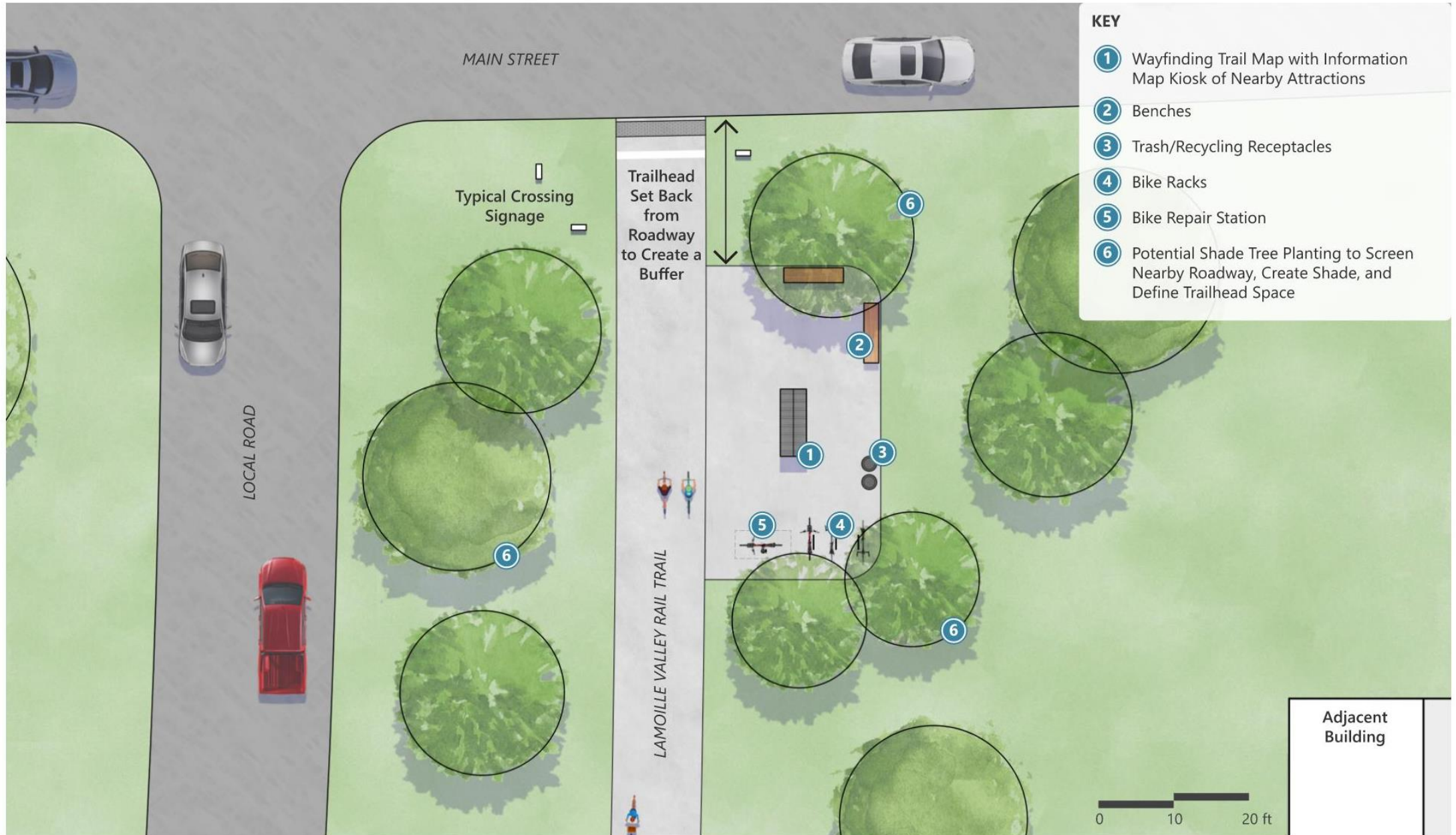
Amenities not typically found at a trailhead of this listed level

AMENITY	TRAILHEAD TYPE		
	Level 1 Small Trailhead	Level 2 Medium Trailhead	Level 3 Large Trailhead
Wayfinding Trail Map (Direction / Distance, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Benches and Trash/Recycling Receptacles	✓	✓	✓
Bike Racks and Bike Repair Station	✓	✓	✓
Vehicular Parking	?	✓	✓
Historical / Interpretive Element	?	?	?
Information / Map Kiosk (Nearby Attractions, Events, Direction / Distance, etc.)	?	?	?
Entry / Arrival Signage	✗	✓	✓
Water Fountain / Bottle Filling Station	✗	?	✓
Picnic Area / Tables	✗	?	✓
Restroom Facility	✗	?	✓
Pavilion	✗	?	?
Landscaping	✗	?	?
Lighting	✗	?	?
Public Art	✗	?	?
Pull-Through Trailer Parking (Boat, Canoes, Sport Facility Support, etc.)	✗	✗	?





# Trailhead Typical | Level 1







# Trailhead Typical | Level 2







# Trailhead Typical | Level 3











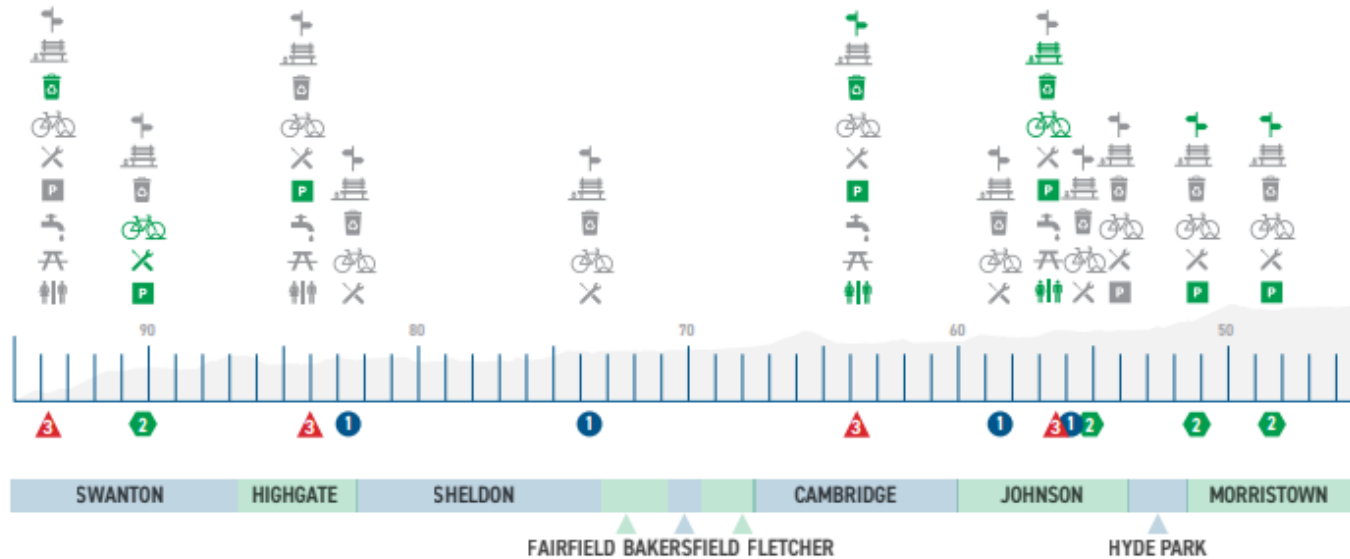
# Trailhead & Amenity Spacing

- Proposed LVRT Trailhead Spacing based on best practices and existing conditions
  - Designated trailhead at least every 8-10 miles
  - Average spacing of 3-5 miles
- Proposed LVRT Trailhead Facilities
  - Trailside restrooms average spacing of 16 miles
  - Trail parking average spacing of 5 miles
- Rural segments with greater spacing of facilities and amenities
  - e.g. Cambridge to Highgate
- Strategic placement for minimum trailside services
- Engage with local communities and stakeholders to develop and maintain trailheads and trailside amenities

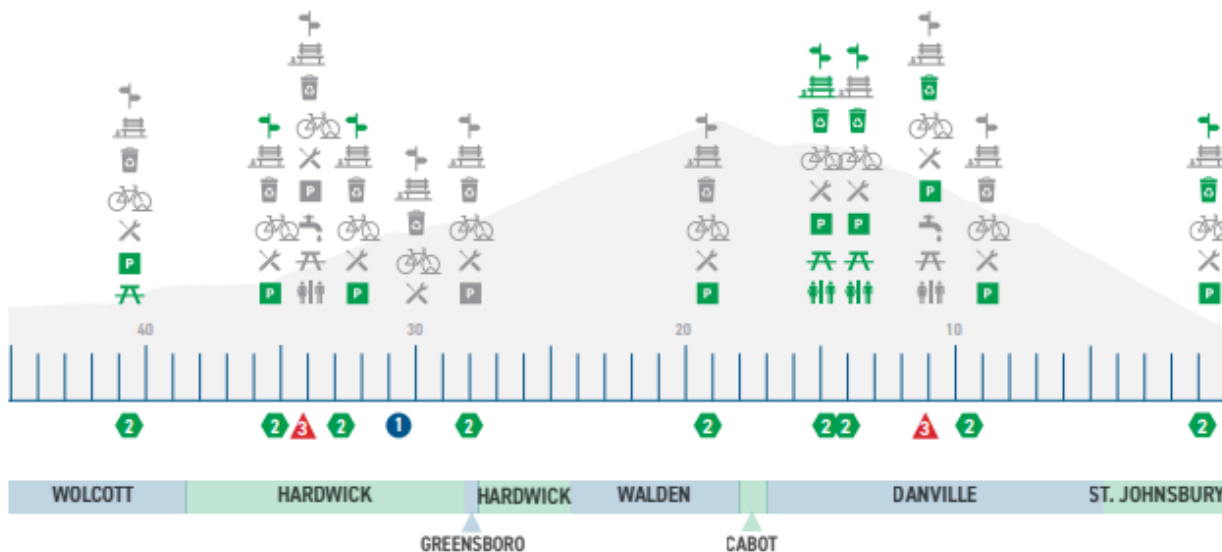




## Western Segment: Morristown to Swanton (MM 45-93)



## Eastern Segment: St. Johnsbury to Wolcott (MM 0-45)



### Legend

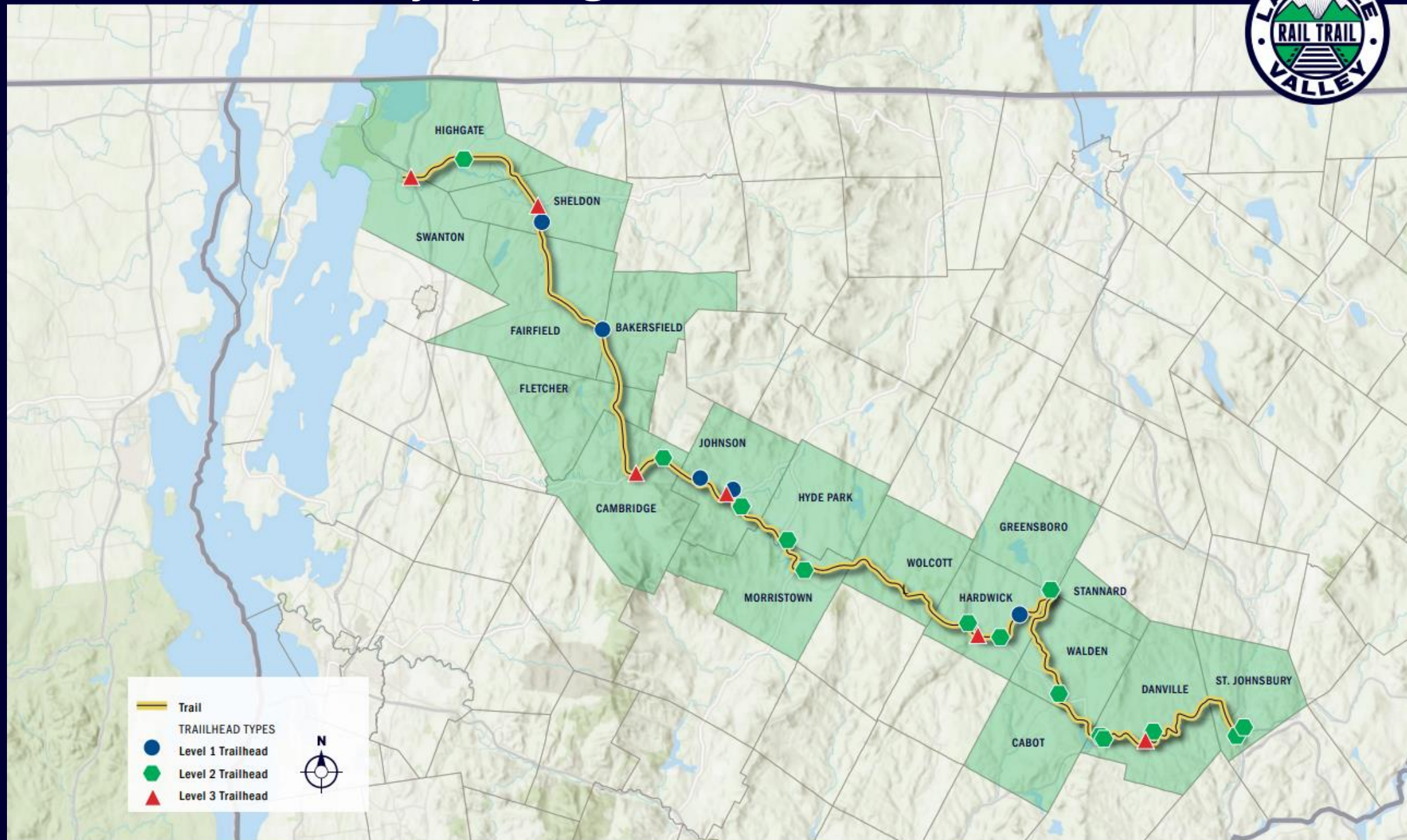
#### TRAILHEAD TYPES

- Level 1 Trailhead 1
- Level 2 Trailhead 2
- Level 3 Trailhead 3

#### TRAILHEAD AMENITIES

	Existing	Proposed
Trail Map		
Benches		
Trash Receptables		
Bike Racks		
Bike Repair		
Parking		
Water Fountain		
Picnic Area		
Restrooms		

# Trailhead & Amenity Spacing





# Draft Strategies & Recommendations:

## Economic Development & Community Connections

### ■ Tourism & Marketing 🚂 🧑🏠 🌲

- Build out **LVRT visitor website** and investigate integrating **trip planning tools** into the website
- Coordinate with partner agencies and organizations to develop **regional marketing campaign**
- Leverage recreational tourism opportunities through **promotion of multisport synergies** and coordinate with partner organizations (VAST, paddlers, northern forests, GMC, velomont, local trail stewards/councils)
- **Encourage camping and lodging** opportunities in trailside communities to support multiday tourism opportunities
- Support development of **trail friendly business program**
- Support development of **passport or quest program** to encourage exploration
- Identify funding and support research to quantify **economic impact of the LVRT** on trail communities and broader regional and state level economies





# Draft Strategies & Recommendations:

## Economic Development & Community Connections

- **Educational & Recreational Programming**   
  - Encourage local and regional **trail-based educational and recreational programming** and events in coordination with schools, libraries, and other organizations or resources
  - Support bike, ski, snowshoe **lending libraries** and/or rental opportunities
  - Support **working lands educational and promotional opportunities** to highlight Vermont farms and forests as part of the LVRT identity
- **Cultural Resources**   
  - Coordinate with state and local historical organizations to identify **historical site opportunities** and develop **interpretive signage plan**



# Programming & Cultural Resources

## ADJACENT BUILDING RELATIONSHIP

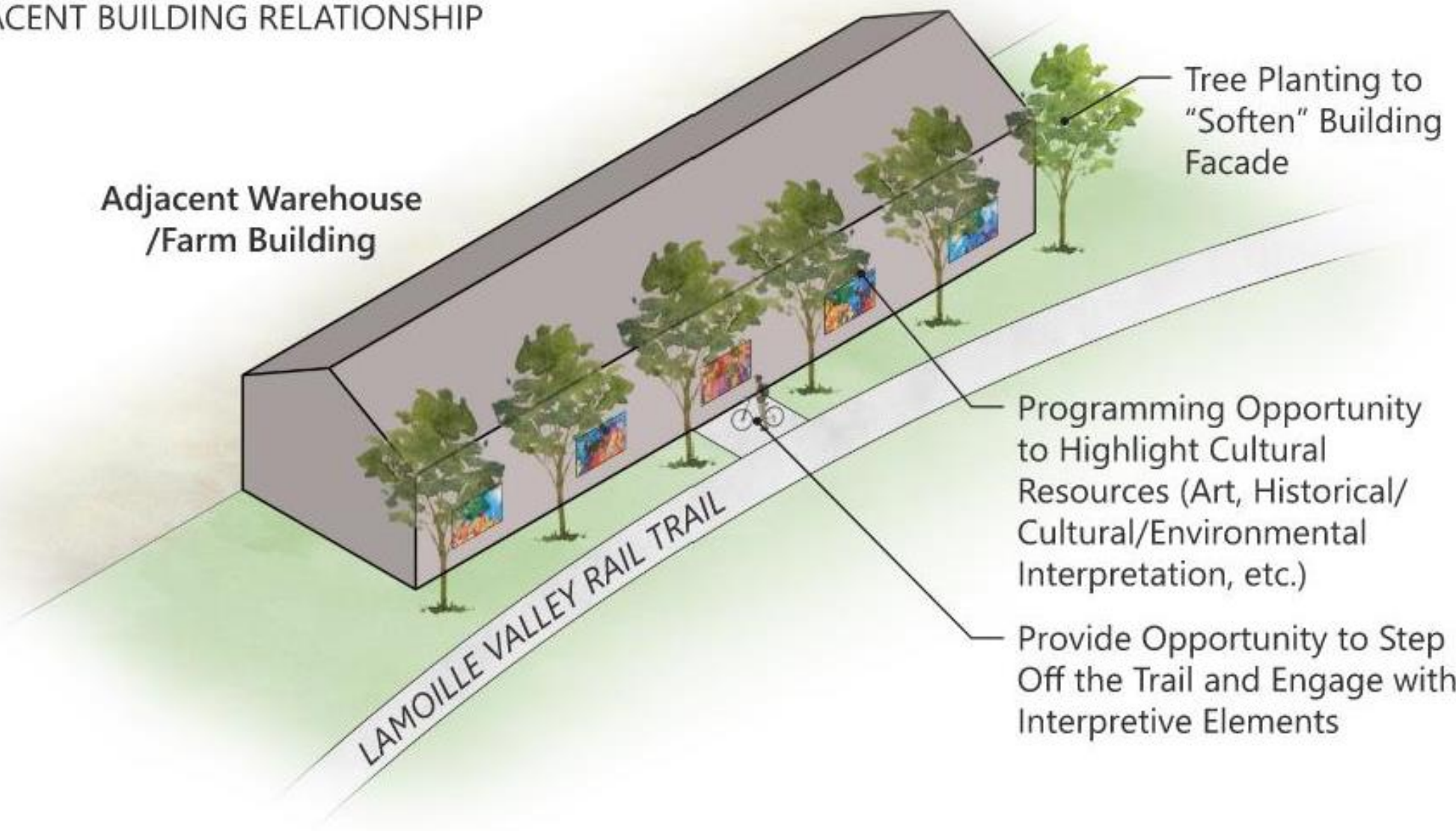
Adjacent Warehouse  
/Farm Building

Tree Planting to  
"Softening" Building  
Facade

Programming Opportunity  
to Highlight Cultural  
Resources (Art, Historical/  
Cultural/Environmental  
Interpretation, etc.)

Provide Opportunity to Step  
Off the Trail and Engage with  
Interpretive Elements

LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL













# Programming & Cultural Resources





# Draft Strategies & Recommendations:

## Economic Development & Community Connections

- **Community Assistance**   
  - **Support communities** seeking funding for development or enhancement projects (e.g. trailheads, amenities, wayfinding, services, gateways, pathways to trailside communities)
- **Trail Identity**   
  - Establish a **cohesive trail identity** and incorporate into signage, wayfinding, guidance, amenities, and promotional materials





# Community Assistance

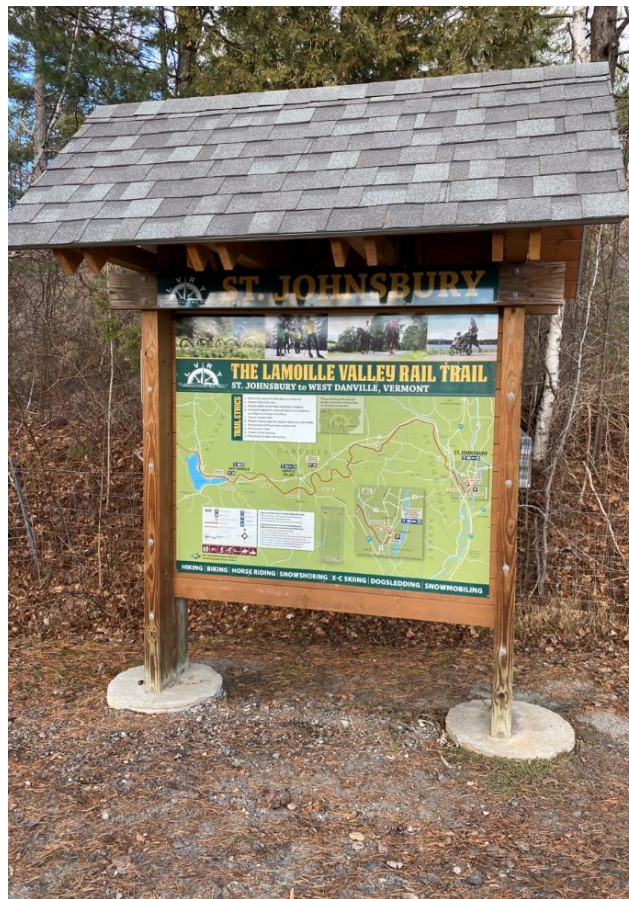
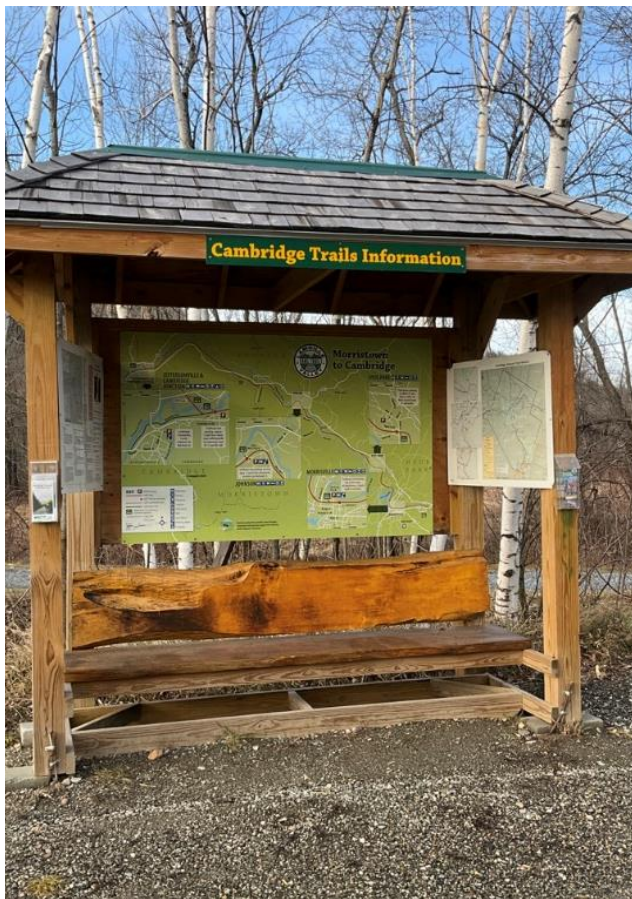
- Grant Program Announcement
  - **\$2 million in grant funding** available for improvements along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)
  - The Program will support improving **trail amenities** and **visitor experience** along the LVRT
  - Reimbursement program with a **20% local cash match** requirement
  - Municipalities may apply as a **consortium**
  - Municipalities are encouraged to work with their **Regional Planning Commission** in refining project ideas
  - Application process opens in August, with the **applications due in October**





# LVRT Graphic Identity

- Build on existing foundation





# PRIMARY LOGOTYPE

Seal—Full Color



Seal—Black



Seal—Reverse



Seal—White





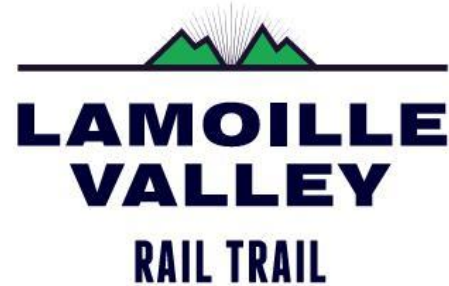
## ALTERNATIVE LOCKUPS

Side By Side (Suggested Use: Letterheads, Web banners)



**LAMOILLE  
VALLEY RAIL TRAIL**

Horizon—Vertical (Suggested Use: Signage)



Horizon—Horizontal (Suggested Use: Signage)



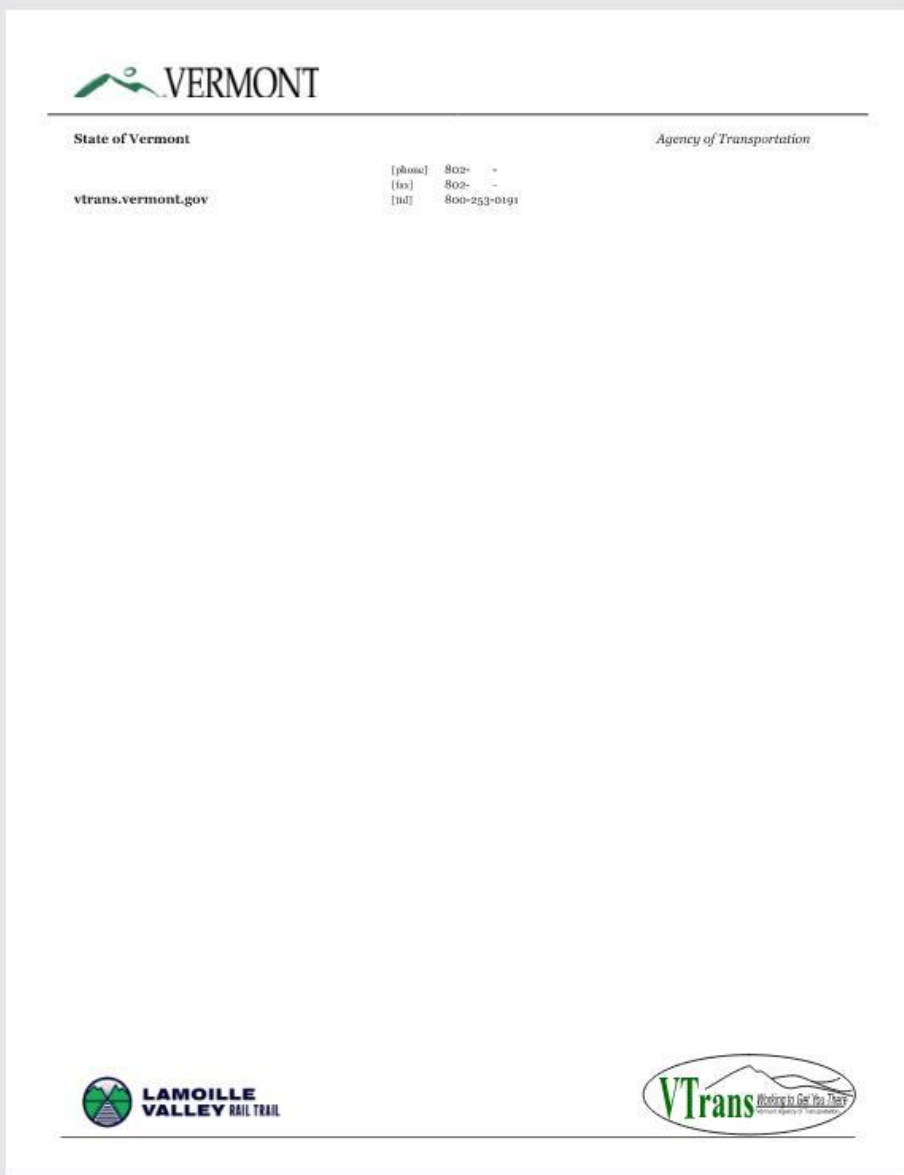
Horizon—LVRT (Suggested Use: Stickers/  
Window Decals)



LVRT Simple Seal (Suggested  
Use: Stickers/Window Decals)

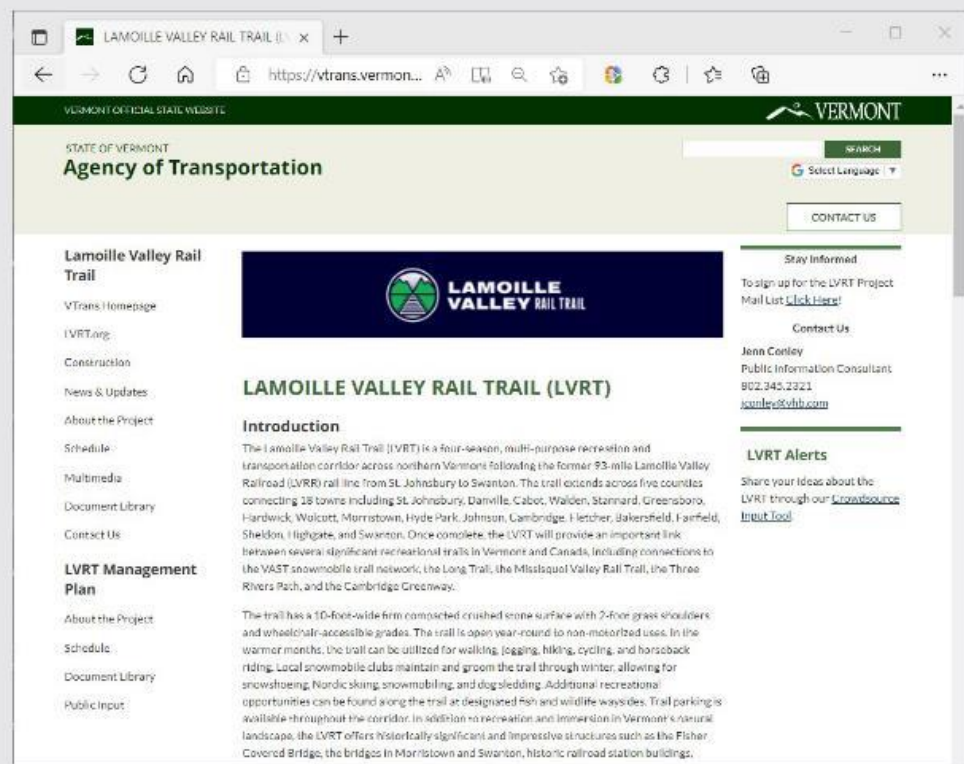


# LOGO USAGE EXAMPLE



## VTrans Letterhead

## Website Banner



# Next Steps





# Next Steps

- Draft Management Plan | June
- Public Comment Period | July
- Final Management Plan | August

# Public Input







Questions?

Comments?

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# Keep in touch!

**Amy Bell, VTrans Project Manager**  
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**Karen Sentoff, VHB**  
802-497-6130 | [ksentoff@vhb.com](mailto:ksentoff@vhb.com)

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<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/lvrt>





**Thank you!**

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